Procedural Delays in Defence Spending

*636. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent views expressed by the Chief of Army Staff as reported in certain section of the press on the tedious and time consuming procedural delays in defence spending resulting in delays in meeting the urgent defence requirements and need for its rectification; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) the Defence Procurement Procedure was formulated and prescribed in 1992 by the Government. the procedure is comprehensive and includes measures to ensure that a conclusive and objective view is taken while selcting a weapons/ weapon system and that extraneous factors do not influence the decision. The procedure is designed for procuring equipment against Qualitative Requirements specified, approved and confirmed by the user, through a system of trials and evaluation by the Services and through a process of competitive tendering to ensure cost advantages. Government is fully alive to the needs of the country's defence preparedness and all steps are being taken to streamline the procurement process and to minimise the time taken in decision making.

The Government have considered the comments made in certain quarters that the Defence Procurement Procedures are coming in the way of time bound acquisition by the Armed Forces. In order to further streamline the procedure a committee has been set up under the Chairmanaship of Vice Chief of Army Staff to examine the existing Defence Procurement Procedures in their entirety with a view to suggest specific measures for speedier processing of procurement cases.

NHRC Recommendation to Orissa for Cyclone Prone shelters

*637. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Human Rights Commissions has directed the Government of Orissa to immediately construct atleast 40 more shelters and establish satellite communication in the cyclone-prone control area of the State;